

**PRIMARY AND RELATED SERVICES FUNDED VIA MCKINNEY-VENTO
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT IN IOWA
2003-2006**

Name of LEA: Iowa City Community School District

Project Director: Joan Vanden Berg
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School Liaison for Homeless
Children and Youth: Joan Vanden Berg

Amount of Grant: \$23,000

Project Period: July 2003 to June 2004

Abstract:

The **LINKS Project** combines \$75,000 of ICCSD funds with the McKinney-Vento funds to provide a comprehensive program for homeless children and youth. The program includes a district-wide system for identification, support services to prevent delays in enrollment, parent support, professional development activities, academic support, counseling, transportation, and full access to all district services and programs. The LINKS Project will target program resources to enhance information sharing and referrals among agencies serving homeless children and youth and ICCSD schools. McKinney grant funds will directly support (1) van service to reduce school transfers; (2) partial support for Family Resource Center Coordinator positions; (3) extra contract time for counselors/at-risk personnel at the secondary schools to conduct professional development activities and identify and support homeless students; (4) summer school scholarships; and (5) bus passes. A priority of the program is to offer transportation to and from school. The Links program collaborates closely with local shelters, transitional housing programs and United Action for Youth's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. Expected outcomes include no delays in enrollment, increased numbers of homeless children and youth identified, increased academic achievement, increased attendance, increase in number remaining in school of origin, increased sense of belonging and connection to school, more parent involvement, more parent access to resources, and decreased number of students with emotional crisis/behavior problems.